

Hurricane Katrina

A Decade of Progress through Partnerships

Bay St. Louis Fire Station

543 Main Street, Bay St. Louis, Miss. 39520

Applicant: City of Bay St. Louis

FEMA Funding: **\$2.2 million**

Hancock County



BACKGROUND: Many first responder facilities along Mississippi’s Gulf Coast flooded after Hurricane Katrina. When Bay Saint Louis city officials needed to build a new fire station, they decided to construct it as a storm shelter for first responders as well. Built to FEMA 361 code for safe rooms, the building was hardened to withstand 200 mph winds.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony in 2011, Bay St. Louis Mayor Les Fillingame noted: *“This is the first building built by the city to house city employees and services since the old city hall that was dedicated in 1905.”*



FEMA FUNDING: A **\$2.2 million** Hazard Mitigation Program grant contributed to building a 12,000 square-foot firehouse to accommodate more than 65 first responders and administrative staff. The funding was paired with a Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The station was built in a 500-year flood plain and includes areas for administration, living and training. A back-up generator is elevated in the rear of the building. FEMA 361 safe room requirements include designing the glazing (glass lamination or polycarbonate, or both) of the door, walls and roof to withstand wind-borne debris impact. For 200

mph winds, horizontal surfaces, such as the roof, are capable of resisting a test missile of a 9 pound 2x4 board. Vertical surfaces, such as walls and doors, can resist a test missile of the same size at winds of 100-mph.



FEMA

